



## Complete Summary

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### TITLE

Standardized methods for labeling, packaging and storing medications: percentage of failures in labeling, conservation and storage of medications in wards, emergency department and operating room dispensaries.

### SOURCE(S)

Ministry of Health. Safe practices indicators project: background, summary of methods and measurement strategies. Madrid: Ministry of Health; 2009 Feb 20. 97 p.

## Measure Domain

### PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Process

The validity of measures depends on how they are built. By examining the key building blocks of a measure, you can assess its validity for your purpose. For more information, visit the [Measure Validity](#) page.

### SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Does not apply to this measure

## Brief Abstract

### DESCRIPTION

This measure is used to determine the percentage of errors in labeling, conservation and storage of medications in operating room, medical ward and emergency department dispensaries.

### RATIONALE

Improper labeling and packaging of medications are well-known causes of serious medication errors. However, the evidence shows that there are effective methods for simplifying pharmacy dispensing by standardizing the labeling of medication containers and drawn-up syringes and the packaging of medications. Labeling and maintenance failures may occur and should be avoided in all dispensaries throughout the hospital.

Main aim of indicator: to reduce the number of errors connected with labeling, conservation and storage of medications in hospital dispensaries.

#### **PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT**

Failures in labeling, conservation and storage of medications; wards; emergency department; operating room

#### **DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION**

Total number of possible failures assessed in three dispensaries (operating room, medical ward and emergency department) selected at random (see the related "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

#### **NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION**

Number of failures detected x 100

### **Evidence Supporting the Measure**

#### **EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE CRITERION OF QUALITY**

- A formal consensus procedure involving experts in relevant clinical, methodological, and organizational sciences
- One or more research studies published in a National Library of Medicine (NLM) indexed, peer-reviewed journal

### **Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure**

#### **NEED FOR THE MEASURE**

Overall poor quality for the performance measured  
Variation in quality for the performance measured

#### **EVIDENCE SUPPORTING NEED FOR THE MEASURE**

Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Indicadores de buenas practicas sobre seguridad del paciente. Resultados de su medicion en una muestra de hospitales del sistema nacional de salud Español. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 95 p.

### **State of Use of the Measure**

#### **STATE OF USE**

Current routine use

#### **CURRENT USE**

Internal quality improvement

### Application of Measure in its Current Use

#### **CARE SETTING**

Hospitals

#### **PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE**

Advanced Practice Nurses  
Nurses  
Pharmacists  
Physicians

#### **LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED**

Single Health Care Delivery Organizations

#### **TARGET POPULATION AGE**

Unspecified

#### **TARGET POPULATION GENDER**

Either male or female

#### **STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

Unspecified

### Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

#### **INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE**

Hospitals have an average of 38.2%  $\pm$  0.1 (95% Confidence Interval) failures in labeling, conservation and storage of medications in wards, emergency department and operating room dispensaries.

#### **EVIDENCE FOR INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE**

Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Indicadores de buenas practicas sobre seguridad del paciente. Resultados de su medicion en una muestra de hospitales del sistema nacional de salud Español. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 95 p.

#### **ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

Unspecified

## **BURDEN OF ILLNESS**

Unspecified

## **UTILIZATION**

Unspecified

## **COSTS**

Unspecified

## **Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories**

### **IOM CARE NEED**

End of Life Care  
Getting Better

### **IOM DOMAIN**

Effectiveness  
Safety

## **Data Collection for the Measure**

### **CASE FINDING**

Users of care only

### **DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING**

Total number of possible failures assessed in three dispensaries (operating room, medical ward and emergency department) selected at random

### **DENOMINATOR SAMPLING FRAME**

Patients associated with provider

### **DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS**

#### **Inclusions**

Total number of possible failures assessed in three dispensaries (operating room, medical ward and emergency department) selected at random

**Note:** A set of medications has been selected to represent and cover the assessment of the following labeling and maintenance aspects: use-by date; separation of concentrates; caution warning in high-alert medications; safekeeping under lock and key; refrigeration; protection from light; complete labeling (name or active principle, concentration and pharmaceutical form).

Refer to the original measure documentation for additional details.

**Exclusions**

None

**RELATIONSHIP OF DENOMINATOR TO NUMERATOR**

All cases in the denominator are equally eligible to appear in the numerator

**DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT**

Therapeutic Intervention

**DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW**

Time window is a single point in time

**NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS**

**Inclusions**

Number of failures detected x 100

**Exclusions**

None

**MEASURE RESULTS UNDER CONTROL OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND/OR POLICYMAKERS**

The measure results are somewhat or substantially under the control of the health care professionals, organizations and/or policymakers to whom the measure applies.

**NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW**

Encounter or point in time

**DATA SOURCE**

Special or unique data

**LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY**

Individual Case

**PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED**

None

## Computation of the Measure

### SCORING

Rate

### INTERPRETATION OF SCORE

Better quality is associated with a lower score

### ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

Unspecified

### STANDARD OF COMPARISON

Internal time comparison

## Evaluation of Measure Properties

### EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING

After pilot testing, the set of indicators has been measured in a random sample of 25 Spanish hospitals, stratified by hospital size. The main objective has been to field test the feasibility of measurement in the various settings representing real life situations in the context of the Spanish Health Care System.

Both the whole indicators validation report and the results of the baseline measurement in a sample of the Spanish National Health Service (NHS) hospitals may be accessed and downloaded from the Spanish Ministry of Health web page (in Spanish):

- [Validation report](#)
- [Results of baseline measurement in Spanish NHS hospitals](#)

### EVIDENCE FOR RELIABILITY/VALIDITY TESTING

Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Construcción y validación de indicadores de buenas prácticas sobre seguridad del paciente. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 178 p.

Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Indicadores de buenas prácticas sobre seguridad del paciente. Resultados de su medición en una muestra de hospitales del sistema nacional de salud Español. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 95 p.

Ministry of Health. Safe practices indicators project: background, summary of methods and measurement strategies. Madrid: Ministry of Health; 2009 Feb 20. 97 p.

## Identifying Information

### ORIGINAL TITLE

Percentage of failures in labeling, conservation and storage of medications in wards, emergency department and operating room dispensaries.

### MEASURE COLLECTION

[Safe Practices Indicators Project](#)

### MEASURE SET NAME

[Increase Safe Medication Use](#)

### MEASURE SUBSET NAME

[Standard Methods for Labeling, Packaging and Storing Medication](#)

### SUBMITTER

Spanish Agency for Healthcare Quality of the Spanish Ministry of Health

### DEVELOPER

Grupo de Investigación sobre Gestión de la Calidad en Servicios de Salud, University of Murcia, under contract to the Spanish Ministry of Health

### FUNDING SOURCE(S)

Agency for Quality, Spanish Ministry of Health

### COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP THAT DEVELOPED THE MEASURE

Saturno, Pedro J., MD, DrPH; Group Director and Project PI

Castillo, Carmen; López, M. José; Ramón, Teresa; Nurses

Carrillo, Andrés, MD; Intensive Care Specialist

Iranzo, M. Dolores; Hospital pharmacist

Soria, Victor, MD; Surgeon

Parra, Pedro, MD; Gomis, Rafael, MD; Gascón, Juan J., MD; Quality Management Specialists

### FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES/OTHER POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Project entirely financed by the Spanish Ministry of Health.

## **ADAPTATION**

Measure was not adapted from another source.

## **RELEASE DATE**

2009 Feb

## **MEASURE STATUS**

This is the current release of the measure.

## **SOURCE(S)**

Ministry of Health. Safe practices indicators project: background, summary of methods and measurement strategies. Madrid: Ministry of Health; 2009 Feb 20. 97 p.

## **MEASURE AVAILABILITY**

The individual measure, "Percentage of Failures in Labeling, Conservation and Storage of Medications in Wards, Emergency Department and Operating Room Dispensaries," is published in "Safe Practices Indicators Project: Background, Summary of Methods and Measurement Strategies."

For more information, contact:

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OR
- Pedro J. Saturno, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Murcia, 30100 Espinardo-Murcia (Spain); Phone: 868 883 948; Fax: +34 868 883947; E-mail: [psaturno@um.es](mailto:psaturno@um.es); Web site: <http://www.calidadsalud.com>.

## **COMPANION DOCUMENTS**

The following are available:

- Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Construcción y validación de indicadores de buenas prácticas sobre seguridad del paciente. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 178 p. This document is available in Portable Document Format (PDF) from the [Ministry of Health and Social Policy Web site](http://www.msc.es/en/home.htm) (in Spanish).
- Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Indicadores de buenas prácticas sobre seguridad del paciente. Resultados de su medición en una muestra de hospitales del sistema nacional de salud Español. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 95 p. This document is available in PDF from the [Ministry of Health and Social Policy Web site](http://www.calidadsalud.com) (in Spanish).



## **NQMC STATUS**

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI Institute on September 11, 2009.  
The information was verified by the measure developer on December 23, 2009.

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